

Appl. No. 10/780,279
Amdt. dated March 15, 2006
Reply to Office Action of September 15, 2005

Atty. Ref. 89277.0023
Customer No. 26021

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A motorcycle comprising:

a seat supporting member provided extending in a rearward direction from a body,

the seat supporting member comprising:

an upper seat supporting member with a seat in place; and

a lower seat supporting member connected to and separated in a downward direction from the upper seat supporting member, the lower seat supporting member is configured as a plate-like member in a shape to cover a region above at least an exhaust pipe.

2. (Original) The motorcycle according to claim 1, wherein the lower seat supporting member has a structure in which a frame portion for supporting the seat opens in a downward direction.

3. (Original) The motorcycle according to claim 1, wherein a rear arm is supported on the body through a pair of left and right rear cushions for an up and down swinging movement, and a front portion of the lower seat supporting member, which passes through a space between the pair of left and right rear cushions and the exhaust pipe, is attached to the body.

4. (Currently amended) The motorcycle according to claim 1, wherein the lower seat supporting member extends to a position where it the lower seat supporting member is interposed between rear cushions and the exhaust pipe, to cover the exhaust pipe.

5. (Original) The motorcycle according to claim 1, wherein the lower seat supporting member has a shape to cover a muffler in addition to the exhaust pipe.

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6. (Original) The motorcycle according to claim 1, wherein the lower seat supporting member covers a portion of the exhaust pipe where a catalyst is disposed inside.

7. (Currently amended) The motorcycle according to claim 1, wherein the upper seat supporting member is configured as a plate-like member and wherein the seat supporting member is made up of the upper seat supporting member and the lower seat supporting member formed in a hollow shape and defining a heat insulating space therebetween.

8. (Original) The motorcycle according to claim 1, wherein the seat supporting member is connected to a body frame.

9. (Original) The motorcycle according to claim 1, further comprising an engine mounted on the body frame.

10. (Original) The motorcycle according to claim 9, wherein the exhaust pipe is connected to the engine and disposed below the seat.

11. (Original) The motorcycle according to claim 5, wherein the muffler is positioned above a rear wheel.

12. (Original) The motorcycle according to claim 1, wherein the upper seat supporting member and the lower seat supporting member are made of a heat insulating material.

13. (Original) The motorcycle according to claim 12, wherein the heat insulating material is a carbon resin.

14. (Currently amended) A motorcycle comprising:
a seat supporting member extending in a rearward direction from a body,
the seat supporting member comprising:
an upper seat supporting member configured as a plate-like member with a seat in place; and

a lower seat supporting member connected to and separated in a downward direction from the upper seat supporting member, the lower seat supporting

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member is configured as a plate like member in a shape to cover a region above at least an exhaust pipe; and

means for covering a region surrounding a muffler,

wherein the upper seat supporting member and the lower seat supporting member are formed in a hollow shape defining a heat insulating space therebetween.

15. (Original) The motorcycle according to claim 14, wherein the lower seat supporting member has a structure in which a frame portion for supporting the seat opens in a downward direction.

16. (Currently amended) ~~The A motorcycle according to claim 2 comprising:~~
a seat supporting member extending in a rearward direction from a body,
the seat supporting member comprising:
an upper seat supporting member with a seat in place; and
a lower seat supporting member connected to and separated in a downward direction from the upper seat supporting member, the lower seat supporting member is configured as a plate like member in a shape to cover a region above at least an exhaust pipe; and

means for covering a region surrounding a muffler,

wherein a rear arm is supported on the body through a pair of left and right rear cushions for an up and down swinging movement, and a front portion of the lower seat supporting member, which passes through a space between the pair of left and right rear cushions and the exhaust pipe is attached to the body.

17. (Currently amended) ~~The A motorcycle according to claim 2 comprising:~~
a seat supporting member extending in a rearward direction from a body,
the seat supporting member comprising:
an upper seat supporting member with a seat in place; and
a lower seat supporting member connected to and separated in a downward direction from the upper seat supporting member, the lower seat supporting

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member is configured as a plate like member in a shape to cover a region above at least an exhaust pipe; and

means for covering a region surrounding a muffler,

wherein the lower seat supporting member extends to a position where it the lower seat supporting member is interposed between rear cushions and the exhaust pipe, to cover the exhaust pipe.

18. (Currently amended) The motorcycle according to claim 2 14, wherein the lower seat supporting member has a shape to cover a the muffler in addition to the exhaust pipe.

19. (Currently amended) The motorcycle according to claim 2 14, wherein the lower seat supporting member covers a portion of the exhaust pipe where a catalyst is disposed inside.

20. (Original) A method for manufacturing a motorcycle, comprising:
extending a seat supporting member in a rearward direction;
placing a seat on an upper seat supporting member;
connecting a lower seat supporting member to the upper seat supporting member;

separating the lower seat supporting member from the upper seat supporting member in a downward direction;

configuring the lower seat supporting member as a plate-like member; and
covering a region above at least an exhaust pipe.